Supreme Court, U. S.
FILED
APR 28 1978
MICHAEL RODAK, JR., CLERK

IN THE

SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES

OCTOBER TERM, 1977

No. 77-1545

EVERETT C. MCKETHAN,

Petitioner,

v.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

Respondent.

PETITION FOR A WRIT OF CERTIORARI TO THE UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS FOR THE FOURTH CIRCUIT

GREGORY L. MURPHY
MICHAEL MCGETTIGAN
GEORGE F. WEST, JR.

MURPHY, McGETTIGAN,
McNALLY & WEST
609 Queen Street
Alexandria, Virginia 22314

Attorneys for Petitioner.

Washington, D.C. • THIEL PRESS • (202) 638-4621

Page

TABLE OF CONTENTS

OPINIONS BELOW 1

JURISDICTION. 2

QUESTION PRESENTED. 2

CONSTITUTIONAL PROVISION AND STATUTE INVOLVED. 2

STATEMENT OF THE CASE 4

REASONS FOR GRANTING THE WRIT 8

CONCLUSION 14

APPENDIX A – Order on Rehearing and Revised Opinion of the United States Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit - *United States v. Everett C. McKethan* 1a

APPENDIX B – Opinion of The United States Court of Appeals for The Fourth Circuit - *United States v. Calvin W. West* 15a

TABLE OF CITATIONS

Cases:

Barber v. Page, 390 U.S. 719 (1968). 11

California v. Green, 399 U.S. 149 (1970) 11, 12

Dutton v. Evans, 400 U.S. 74 (1970) 9, 12

Mattox v. United States, 156 U.S. 237 (1895) 11

Pointer v. Texas, 380 U.S. 400 (1965) 11

United States v. Carlson, 547 F.2d 1346 (8th Cir. 1976), *cert. denied*, 431 U.S. 914 (1977) 8, 10

United States v. Fiore, 443 F.2d 112 (2d Cir. 1971). . . 8, 9-10

United States v. Gonzales, 559 F.2d 1271 (5th Cir. 1977). 8, 11

Statutes:

18 U.S.C. §1952. 4

21 U.S.C. §963. 4

Page

Legislative Materials:

S. Rep. No. 93-1277, 93d Cong., 2d Sess. (1974) 13

H.R. Rep. No. 93-1597, 93d Cong., 2d Sess. (1974) 13

H.R. Rep. No. 93-650, 93d Cong., 1st Sess. (1973). 13

IN THE

SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES

OCTOBER TERM, 1977

No.

EVERETT C. MCKETHAN,

Petitioner,

v.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

Respondent.

PETITION FOR A WRIT OF CERTIORARI TO THE UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS FOR THE FOURTH CIRCUIT

Petitioner Everett C. McKethan respectfully prays that a writ of certiorari be granted to review the judgment of the United States Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit.

OPINIONS BELOW

The opinion of the Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit, as revised, has not yet been reported officially. It is reprinted in the Appendix to this petition at page 1a.

A related case, *United States v. Calvin W. West*, Nos. 76-1837 through 76-1843 (4th Cir., February 13, 1978), is reprinted in the Appendix to this petition at page 15a.

JURISDICTION

The judgment of the Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit was entered February 17, 1978. Upon consideration of a Petition for Rehearing, the Court of Appeals revised its opinion pursuant to its Order filed March 30, 1978. This Court has jurisdiction under 28 U.S.C. §1254(1).

QUESTION PRESENTED

WHETHER, IN LIGHT OF THE CONFRONTATION CLAUSE AND UNDER THE FEDERAL RULES OF EVIDENCE, THE GRAND JURY TESTIMONY OF A GOVERNMENT WITNESS WHO REFUSES TO TESTIFY OR BE CROSS-EXAMINED AT TRIAL MAY BE INTRODUCED IN EVIDENCE WHERE SUCH TESTIMONY IS THE ONLY EVIDENCE OF CRIMINALITY PRESENTED AGAINST THE DEFENDANT.

CONSTITUTIONAL PROVISION and STATUTE INVOLVED

Amend. VI, U.S. Const.

In all criminal prosecutions, the accused shall enjoy the right . . . to be confronted with the witnesses against him;

Federal Rules of Evidence
Rule 804

HEARSAY EXCEPTIONS: DECLARANT UNAVAILABLE

(a) *Definition of unavailability.* "Unavailability as a witness" includes situations in which the declarant –

* * *

(2) persists in refusing to testify concerning the subject matter of his statement despite an order of the court to do so;

* * *

(b) *Hearsay exceptions.* The following are not excluded by the hearsay rule if the declarant is unavailable as a witness:

(1) *Former testimony.* Testimony given as a witness at another hearing of the same or a different proceeding, or in a deposition taken in compliance with law in the course of the same or another proceeding, if the party against whom the testimony is now offered, or, in a civil action or proceeding, a predecessor in interest, had an opportunity and similar motive to develop the testimony by direct, cross, or redirect examination.

* * *

(5) *Other exceptions.* A statement not specifically covered by any of the foregoing exceptions but having equivalent circumstantial guarantees of trustworthiness, if the court determines that (A) the statement is offered as evidence of a material fact; (B) the statement is more probative on the point for which it is offered than any other evidence

which the proponent can procure through reasonable efforts; and (C) the general purposes of these rules and the interests will best be served by admission of the statement into evidence. However, a statement may not be admitted under this exception unless the proponent of it makes known to the adverse party sufficiently in advance of the trial or hearing to provide the adverse party with a fair opportunity to prepare to meet it, his intention to offer the statement and the particulars of it, including the name and address of the declarant.

STATEMENT OF THE CASE

After a trial by jury in the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia, Everett C. McKethan was convicted of narcotics conspiracy, §21 U.S.C. §963, and a violation of the Travel Act, 18 U.S.C. §1952. On November 17, 1976, he was sentenced to consecutive terms of five years and one year for these convictions. The indictment charging McKethan with narcotics conspiracy also named Earl A. Garner as a defendant and co-conspirator, and McKethan and Garner were tried together. The jury convicted Garner, along with McKethan, of conspiracy to import heroin, and in addition, Garner was convicted of a second conspiracy charge and a substantive count of narcotics importation. The indictment had named Warren Robinson as a co-conspirator with McKethan and Garner. Upon Robinson's refusal to testify as a government witness at trial, the trial judge allowed the government to use his grand jury testimony as substantive evidence. The admissibility of that evidence was the entire focus of the trial, and is the basis of this petition.

The conspiracy charged in the indictment involved, essentially, the importation of heroin from Western Europe to Washington, D.C. Before the indictment was issued, Robinson testified before the grand jury on January 7, 1976 pursuant to a plea bargaining agreement with the government. In return for his cooperation with the government's efforts to prosecute McKethan and others, Robinson was allowed to enter guilty pleas to lesser offenses, thus minimizing his exposure to lengthy prison terms for more serious drug charges. In his testimony before the grand jury, Robinson said that McKethan put him in contact with a source of heroin in Amsterdam and that later, McKethan gave advice to Garner concerning avoidance of customs inspections for smuggling heroin out of Europe.

Robinson also testified in the grand jury about trips to Europe which he, Garner and others made during which he and the others purchased drugs and returned with them to the United States. Robinson did not tell the grand jury that McKethan purchased heroin, smuggled it out of Europe or distributed it in the United States; McKethan was, according to Robinson, strictly the information source of a conspiracy which Robinson and others carried out. Robinson's testimony also indicated that McKethan was able to play this role because as an airline employee, he travelled frequently to Europe.

At the trial, Robinson was the only witness the government had who could potentially implicate McKethan in the series of events described in Robinson's grand jury testimony. But prior to his making an opening statement, the government prosecutor notified the trial judge that Robinson was "reluctant" to testify. The government therefore called Robinson for questioning outside the presence of the jury and after he identified himself, Robinson refused to testify. Despite that refusal, the

government prosecutor told the jury in his opening statement that Robinson would testify, and he summarized for the jury Robinson's grand jury testimony. Again, Robinson was brought before the court out of the presence of the jury and again, after identifying McKethan and Garner, Robinson continued to refuse to testify. The trial judge granted Robinson immunity, ordered him to testify, threatened him with severe punishment, and ultimately found him in contempt of court, but Robinson continued to refuse to testify.

When it was clear that Robinson's refusal to cooperate with the government would continue, the trial judge suggested that the government offer Robinson's grand jury testimony as evidence under Rule 804(b)(5) of the Federal Rules of Evidence, the residual exception to the hearsay rule applicable to statements of unavailable witnesses. The trial judge recognized that, by its terms, Rule 804 (b)(5) could be employed only if the government had given notice to the defendants prior to trial of its intent to use the hearsay evidence. The judge concluded, however, that the notice requirement could be dispensed with if the hearsay were offered on the second day of trial. When Robinson persisted in refusing to testify on the second day of trial, the evidence was offered by the government, and admitted in evidence by the judge.

Robinson's grand jury testimony contained all of the evidentiary infirmities common to testimony taken in an *ex parte* context, including leading questions, multiple hearsay, unintelligible and unresponsive answers, and questions calling for an answer for which no foundation had been laid. When specific objections were made on these grounds, however, the trial judge sustained only one objection to the admissibility of the testimony. The trial judge made no inquiry into the reliability of the testimony, deciding instead to admit it because it was given

under oath. Robinson's grand jury testimony was thus read to the jury in the form in which it was transcribed.

Then the trial judge ordered that Robinson be brought before the jury for "cross-examination" on his grand jury testimony. Robinson continued to refuse to answer questions propounded to him by defense counsel, except to say that his grand jury testimony was inaccurate. The Court of Appeals observed of this "cross-examination" did not meet the requirements of the Confrontation Clause. *Infra* at 12a.

In a split decision, the Court of Appeals upheld McKethan's conviction despite his objection to the admissibility of Robinson's grand jury testimony under both the Confrontation Clause of the sixth amendment and the Federal Rules of Evidence. As noted, the Court of Appeals did not find that Robinson had been cross-examined. The rule of law it announced was that the admission of grand jury testimony does not violate the Confrontation Clause "if it bears sufficient guarantees of reliability and the circumstances contain a sufficient basis upon which the jury may assess its trustworthiness." *Infra* at 7a.

In its appellate analysis, the Court of Appeals found Robinson's grand jury testimony admissible as to McKethan because it was corroborated by documentary evidence introduced at trial by the government which tended to show that McKethan had indeed travelled to Europe as Robinson had said he did.[1] The majority

---

[1] The opinion of Court of Appeals does not make this clear, but Robinson's grand jury testimony was the only evidence of criminal conduct presented as to McKethan. Another government witness named Mary Ann McKee testified as to Garner, but she did not even know who McKethan was. Similarly, five other persons who were alleged by the indictment to be McKethan's co-conspirators were called as defense witnesses, and none of them could identify McKethan.

opinion of the Court of Appeals thus ruled that grand jury testimony is admissible hearsay under Rule 804(b)(5) and is not barred by the Confrontation Clause if other evidence shows it to be reliable. The Court of Appeals found the grand jury testimony reliable, and therefore admissible, as to McKethan solely because the documentary evidence corroborated Robinson's testimony that McKethan had travelled abroad; the corroborative travel records themselves are, of course, devoid of any inference of wrongdoing.

REASONS FOR GRANTING THE WRIT

Judge Widener dissented from the opinion of the majority of the Court of Appeals for the reasons expressed in his dissent in the related case of *United States v. West*, ___F.2d___ (4th Cir., February 13, 1978). *Infra* at 15a. That dissent, in discussing several of the considerations listed in Rule 19 of the Rules of this Court, is virtually a brief on behalf of McKethan for the issuance by this Court of a writ of certiorari. *Infra* at 30a-36a.

The Court of Appeals decision below should be reviewed because it is in direct conflict with a Second Circuit decision concerning the use of grand jury testimony in light of the Confrontation Clause. *United States v. Fiore*, 443 F.2d 112 (2d Cir. 1971). Further, as to the admissibility of grand jury testimony under the Federal Rules of Evidence, the Court of Appeals decision is in conflict with *United States v. Gonzales*, 559 F.2d 1271 (5th Cir. 1977) from the Fifth Circuit, and is not in complete harmony with *United States v. Carlson*, 547 F.2d 1346 (8th Cir. 1976), *cert. denied*, 431 U.S. 914 (1977) from the Eighth Circuit. Also, the decision conflicts with the standards established by this Court for the admission of former testimony which has not been cross-examined,

and of hearsay evidence generally when confrontation is absent. *Dutton v. Evans*, 400 U.S. 74 (1970).

In addition, wholly apart from the fact that the Court of Appeals decision conflicts with the decisions of other courts of appeal and this Court, the specific question presented by this petition involves an important issue under the Federal Rules of Evidence which has not been addressed by this Court. That question – the admissibility of grand jury testimony as substantive evidence in a criminal trial – intersects with the constitutional right to not be tried by affidavit, as guaranteed by the sixth amendment.

For all of those reasons, the issuance of a writ to review the Court of Appeals decision is appropriate here.

A. The Circuits Are In Conflict On The Admissibility of Grand Jury Testimony Under The Confrontation Clause.

In *United States v. West, infra* at 15a, the Court of Appeals decided that the grand jury testimony of a witness who had been murdered before he could testify at the defendants' trial was admissible. In McKethan's case, the grand jury testimony of the witness Robinson who refused to testify at trial was admitted in evidence. Where a witness refused to testify and the admissibility of his grand jury testimony was challenged as substantive evidence on constitutional grounds, the Second Circuit barred the use of grand jury testimony since its admission would violate the Confrontation Clause. *United States v. Fiore*, 443 F.2d 112, 115 (2d Cir. 1971). Judge Widener's dissent in *West* points out that by equating the Constitution's regulation of trial procedure with rules of evidence, the majority opinion puts the Fourth Circuit in conflict with *Fiore*. *Infra* at 35a. Clearly, the court below

gave no separate consideration to the confrontation issue on which *Fiore* turned, deciding instead both here and in *West* that the question of admissibility is the same under Rule 804(b)(5) and under the Confrontation Clause. For that reason, as Judge Widener has observed, the decision below is in direct conflict with the Second Circuit's opinion in *Fiore* on the constitutional issue of the Confrontation Clause.

B. The Opinion Below Is In Conflict With Decisions From The Fifth And Eighth Circuit On The Admissibility Of Grand Jury Testimony Under Rule 804(b)(5).

In equating the question of admissibility under the rules of evidence with admissibility under the Confrontation Clause, the opinion below is also in conflict with *United States v. Carlson*, 547 F.2d 1348 (8th Cir. 1976), *cert. denied*, 431 U.S. 914 (1977). In *Carlson*, the Eighth Circuit ruled that grand jury testimony was admissible under Rule 804(b)(5) where it had a high degree of trustworthiness. 547 F.2d at 1347. However, the *Carlson* court also assumed that the defendant had confrontation rights apart from the reliability of the hearsay testimony under the Rules of Evidence, but that the defendant had waived such rights by threatening the witness who then refused to testify. 547 F.2d at 1357-60. By contrast, under the opinion below of the Court of Appeals, only the question of reliability is addressed, not the issue of whether confrontation occurred, a separate question which the *Carlson* court recognized but did not decide.

Carlson did find, however, that the grand jury testimony of an unavailable witness was admissible under the Rules of Evidence if such testimony could be found to be reliable. In conflict with *Carlson* and with the instant

case, the Fifth Circuit opinion in *United States v. Gonzales*, 559 F.2d 1271 (5th Cir. 1977) held that a witness' grand jury testimony could not be considered "reliable". The *Gonzales* court found the grand jury testimony unreliable because, as in McKethan's case, the witness' answers were given to impermissible leading questions and his answers not cross-examined; also, the *Gonzales* witness, like Robinson, refused to affirm at trial that his testimony before the grand jury was true. In both its result and its rationale, the opinion of the Fifth Circuit in *Gonzales* is in conflict with the instant case.

C. The Opinion Below Ignores This Court's Decisions Concerning The Requirement That There Be Cross-Examination of Former Testimony, And Misapplies *Dutton v. Evans* by Permitting The Admission Of A Paper Transcript.

Where the government has attempted to introduce a witness' former testimony, this Court's decisions have focused upon the accused's rights to cross-examine that testimony.[2] Similarly, Rule 804(b)(1), expressly applicable to "former testimony", requires that there be an opportunity to examine the witness on such testimony when it is offered, and thus in effect codifies the rationale of this Court's opinions. Even though Robinson's grand jury testimony was former testimony, the opinion below of the Court of Appeals did not require that cross-

---

[2] California v. Green, 399 U.S. 149, 170 (1970); Barber v. Page, 390 U.S. 719, 725-26 (1968); Pointer v. Texas, 380 U.S. 400, 407 (1965); Mattox v. United States, 156 U.S. 237, 243-44 (1895).

examination is mandated by this Court's decisions or by Rule 804(b)(1), although it found that there was not adequate cross-examination to satisfy the requirements of the Confrontation Clause. *Infra* at 12a. The opinion of the Court of Appeals conflicts with this Court's prior decisions recognizing the importance of cross-examination to the admission of former testimony.

Judge Widener's dissent in *West* emphasizes that under the Confrontation Clause, the question is not whether the testimony is truthful; rather, the issue is whether there has been adequate confrontation to satisfy the sixth amendment. *Infra* at 32a. Similarly, when ruling upon the admissibility of former testimony rather than other kinds of hearsay, this Court's decisions have considered whether cross-examination has occurred at some point. *See, e.g., California v. Green,* 399 U.S. 149, 165 (1970). But here, the court below reaches out purportedly to apply the standard this Court established in *Dutton v. Evans,* 400 U.S. 74 (1970) to assess the admissibility of hearsay which was not former testimony. In *Dutton,* this Court approved the admission of a hearsay statement of one of twenty prosecution witnesses, which was a one sentence conversation about a defendant and on which the witness was "vigorously and effectively cross-examined by defense counsel." 400 U.S. at 87. In making its ruling in *Dutton,* this Court pointedly explained that this bit of evidence did not violate the defendant's right to confrontation, not only because it had "indicia of reliability", but expressly because "It does not involve the use by the prosecution of a paper transcript. . . ." *Id.* By purportedly applying the standard used in *Dutton* to the "paper transcript" at issue in the instant case, the Court of Appeals decision is in conflict with *Dutton* itself, and ought to be reviewed for that reason.

D. The Legislative History Of Rule 804(b)(5) Does Not Contemplate Its Use For The Introduction Of Grand Jury Testimony, Or For Radically Altering The Function Of Grand Jury Testimony.

Wholly apart from the conflict of the opinion of the court below with the decisions of other courts of appeal and with this Court, the judgment appealed from should be reviewed by this Court because of the importance of the federal question involved here.

The decision of the Court of Appeals to admit grand jury testimony under the residual exception to Rule 804, the rule applicable to hearsay of unavailable witnesses, constitutes a dramatic departure from the historic function of grand jury testimony. Under the Court of Appeals decision, grand jury testimony can be used by the government as substantive evidence in a criminal case if a witness is unavailable for any of the reasons catalogued in Rule 804(a).

At a minimum, it would seem that the legislative history of the Federal Rules of Evidence would contain some discussion of the enhanced function of grand jury testimony if Congress intended Rule 804(b)(5) to alter the historic function of such testimony. There is no discussion at all in the legislative history of the Rules of such a radical use of the residual hearsay exception.[3] Instead, the express purpose of Rule 804(b)(5) was to establish a method under which trial judges in exceptional circumstances could admit hearsay that did not fall under recognized common law exceptions to the hearsay rule. S. Rep. No. 93-1277, 93d Cong., 2d Sess. 19-20

---

[3] *See* S. Rep. No. 93-1277, 93d Cong., 2d Sess. (1974); H.R. Rep. No. 93-1597, 93d Cong., 2d Sess. (1974); H.R. Rep. No. 93-650, 93d Cong., 1st Sess. (1973).

(1974). The instant petition thus involves an important question of federal law which this Court should consider.

CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons, petitioner submits that this petition for a writ of certiorari should be granted, and that the judgment of the United States Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit be reversed.

Respectfully submitted,

GREGORY L. MURPHY
MICHAEL MC GETTIGAN
GEORGE F. WEST, JR.
MURPHY, McGETTIGAN,
McNALLY & WEST
609 Queen Street
Alexandria, Virginia 22314
Attorneys for Petitioner.

APPENDIX A

FILED
Mar 30, 1978
William K. Slate II
CLERK

UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS
FOR THE FOURTH CIRCUIT

No. 77-1222

United States of America,

Appellee,

versus

Earl A. Garner,

Appellant.

No. 77-1224

United States of America,

Appellee,

versus

Everett C. McKethan,

Appellant.

ORDER

Upon consideration of the petition for rehearing,

The opinions are revised, substituting new pages 11 and 11a, attached hereto, for old page 11, by substituting pages 15 and 15a, attached hereto, for old page 15, and by substituting a revised dissenting opinion by Judge Widener, attached hereto, for the old dissenting opinion.

With the concurrence of Judge Hall, Judge Widener has revised his dissent to indicate his concurrence with Parts

III and IV of the revised opinion, but he would grant rehearing for the reason stated in his dissenting opinion.

/s/ Clement F. Haynsworth, Jr.
Chief Judge, Fourth Circuit

March 24, 1978

UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS
FOR THE FOURTH CIRCUIT

No. 77-1222

United States of America,

Appellee,

versus

Earl A. Garner,

Appellant.

No. 77-1224

United States of America,

Appellee,

versus

Everett C. McKethan,

Appellant.

Appeal from the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia, at Alexandria. J. Calvitt Clarke, Jr., District Judge.

Argued June 10, 1977 Decided February 17, 1978.

REVISED OPINION

Before HAYNSWORTH, Chief Judge,
WIDENER and HALL, Circuit Judges

Michael McGettigan (George F. West, Jr., Murphy, McGettigan, McNally & West on brief) Leonard S. Ruben-

stein (Philip J. Hirschkop, Philip Hirschkop & Associates, Ltd. on brief) for Appellants; James R. Hubbard, Assistant United States Attorney (William B. Cummings, United States Attorney, Justin W. Williams, Assistant United States Attorney, Leonie Milhomme Brinkema, Special Assistant United States Attorney on brief) for Appellee.

HAYNSWORTH, Chief Judge:

Convicted of drug related offenses arising out of the alleged importation of substantial quantities of heroin from West Germany and Holland, the defendants complain primarily of the admission in evidence of the grand jury testimony of an alleged co-conspirator who declined to testify at the trial despite the best efforts of the trial judge and his own lawyer to get him to do so.

I.

Warren Robinson, the grand jury witness, had been indicted for offenses committed by him in connection with the importation of the heroin. He had previously commenced serving a six year sentence imposed upon him for unrelated offenses, and he was under indictment in New York for still other unrelated offenses. Faced with the possibility that very heavy penalties might be imposed upon him if convicted under this indictment, he entered into a plea agreement. The agreement was that he would enter a plea of guilty to a two-count information, would testify fully before a grand jury and in any ensuing criminal proceedings, in exchange for which the government would dismiss the indictment. There was no agreement respecting the disposition of the New York charges.

Robinson entered his guilty pleas to the two counts in the information, and was sentenced to two successive five year terms to commence upon completion of his earlier

six year sentence. He then appeared as a seemingly willing witness before a grand jury.

He told the grand jury that Garner had approached him with information that McKethan, an airline employee, had a source for large quantities of heroin in West Germany. Garner sought to enlist Robinson's participation in the importation of heroin from western Europe and its distribution in the metropolitan Washington area.

There followed a number of trips to West Germany and to Holland, where another source of supply had been developed with the assistance of their first contact. Robinson did not get his passport in time to make Garner's first trip, but he and Garner traveled together on two later ones, and he was told by the defendants of still later trips that they took. On one of the trips Garner and Robinson were accompanied by two young women who, traveling separately on the return trip, brought the heroin into the United States concealed in their girdles.

Before Garner and McKethan were brought to trial, Robinson indicated reluctance to testify at trial. This occasioned inquiry of him in an *in camera* proceeding before the trial opened. He then stated that in the absence of his lawyer he would not testify. His lawyer was summoned and advised him to testify, but to no avail. After the trial opened, though the court had granted him use immunity and threatened him with a contempt citation if he refused, he persisted in his refusal to testify. In another *in camera* proceeding, Robinson indicated that he might answer questions put by defense counsel. The district court then ruled that, though he was "unavailable" as a witness within the meaning of Rule 804(b)(5) of the F. R. Evid., he was "available" for cross-examination by defense counsel. In the presence of the jury, Robinson stated that he knew Garner and

McKethan and that his grand jury testimony was inaccurate. He answered some questions about European travel with answers which seemed to say that he knew nothing of any drug trafficking by Garner or McKethan. At other times he declined to answer, and his seeming disclaimers of knowledge may have been understood by the jury to be the equivalent of a refusal to testify. The transcript gives one the general impression not that the grand jury testimony was false but that, whatever pressures were brought upon him, the defendant was unwilling to testify and particularly unwilling to say anything which would incriminate either of these defendants.

There is no explanation of this unwillingness. Cooperating former co-conspirators have sometimes been the victims of threats by their former associates facing trials. That Robinson was the victim of threats by either Garner or McKethan, however, can be no more than speculation. Robinson was in prison at the time, and he may have been the victim of the code that condemns a conspirator for testifying against his former associates.

II.

In *United States v. West*, 4th Cir., ____ F.2d ____, we have upheld the admission of sworn grand jury testimony, though not subject to cross-examination, when the witness was murdered in the interim between his grand jury testimony and the trial of the drug offenders. In that case, there was extraordinary corroboration of the grand jury testimony, for he had been wired for sound; his conversations had been recorded; he had been kept under close surveillance when not within buildings, and the officers who had watched and recorded his conversations were witnesses available for cross examination.

In *United States v. Carlson*, 8th Cir., 547 F.2d 1346, a grand jury witness refused to testify at Carlson's trial

because, he said, of threats directed to him by Carlson. That, too, was a drug offense case. There was substantial circumstantial corroboration of the grand jury testimony. Because of that, and a general affirmation by the witness at trial of his grand jury testimony, the Eighth Circuit held the grand jury testimony admissible under Rule 804(b)(5). As to the Confrontation Clause, it held that Carlson had waived his right, reasoning that Carlson should not be allowed to complain of the silence of the witness when he was the procuror of the silence. *See Motes v. U.S.*, 178 U.S. 458, 471-472.

On the other hand, in *United States v. Gonzales,* 5th Cir., 559 F.2d 1271, the Fifth Circuit, in another drug offense case, held that the testimony of the grand jury witness was inadmissible. There the grand jury witness had been most reluctant to testify during his appearance before the grand jury, apparently torn between the possibility of injury to himself or his family if he testified and further imprisonment for contempt if he refused. Faced with these unpleasant alternatives, the pressure to testify may have prompted the witness falsely to identify the defendant as his employer, and the identity of the employer was entirely dependent upon the testimony of the witness.

Since we have canvassed this scene in *West,* we need not repeat it here. It is enough to recite that sworn grand jury testimony may be admitted under Rule 804(b)(5) when there are substantial guarantees of trustworthiness equivalent to those which warrant recognized exceptions to the hearsay rule. The admission of such sworn testimony is not a violation of the Confrontation Clause of the Constitution if it bears sufficient guarantees of reliability and the circumstances contain a sufficient basis upon which the jury may assess its trustworthiness. The

distinction is illustrated by the strong indicators of reliability found in *West* and the absence of such indicators in *Gonzales. See also* U. S. v. Rogers, 549 F.2d 490 (8th Cir. 1976), *cert. denied* ___ U.S. ___ (1977.

Here there are strong indicators of reliability, and the jury had an ample basis upon which to determine the trustworthiness of the testimony.

One of the two young women who, according to Robinson's grand jury testimony, had accompanied Garner and him on their trip to Amsterdam beginning on October 15, 1974, was produced as a witness at the trial. She fully confirmed Robinson's grand jury testimony about the trip. She, Miss McKee, and a Miss Hallums, had accompanied Garner and Robinson to Amsterdam for the purpose of serving as couriers. While in Amsterdam, Miss McKee shared a hotel room with Robinson, while Miss Hallums shared another nearby room with Garner. After Garner and Robinson had procured the heroin, she testified, Robinson "blended" it into powder form and packaged it into two packages. This was done in a hotel room in which Garner and the two women were also present. Miss McKee "snorted" some of the heroin, and the men showed the girls how to conceal one package each in her girdle. The two girls then flew to Dulles, while the two men took another plane to New York, just as Robinson had testified. When the men got to Washington, Miss McKee testified she delivered the two packages of heroin to Garner, who was sitting on the passenger side of a car being driven by Robinson.

Moreover, there was irrefutable evidence of their travels. The United States introduced records of airline tickets, customs declarations, passport endorsements, and European hotel registrations. They show that McKethan

made five trips to western Europe between mid-July 1974 and mid-March 1975. Garner made seven such trips in the same period. These records show that McKethan was in Amsterdam in early September 1974 when Robinson testified that he and Garner met him there and made their first contact with the Chinese supplier. McKethan and Garner were also in Copenhagen at the same time in December 1974 and apparently were traveling on the same flights to Copenhagen and Amsterdam in March 1975.

Moreover, the records show that Henry Thompson arrived at Dulles from Europe on September 4, 1974. Thompson was a member of the United States Armed Forces stationed in West Germany. He was McKethan's cousin. On his entry form he noted that he would be staying with McKethan and that McKethan was a person who would know his whereabouts. Robinson had testified that Garner had used Thompson, their initial heroin contact in Europe, as a courier after Garner's first trip, although the available records indicate that Thompson was on the same flight with Garner and Robinson returning from their first joint trip. Testifying from his recollection more than a year later, Robinson may have been confused about which trip Thompson made, but the record of Thompson's flight provides general corroboration of Robinson's testimony that he was used as a courier.

These travel records would contain no implication of guilt if the record contained any reasonable explanation of them consistent with innocence. If the defendants were stewards employed by Pan American Air Lines in international flights, their frequent European travels would contain no suggestion of wrong doing. Suspicion would not attach if they were reputable international

businessmen with branches in Holland, Denmark and the United States. For others of us, however, having no patent occasion for frequent European travel, the sudden onset of successive trips of short duration alone can raise suspicion as long as any reasonable explanation is lacking. As to Garner, there is no suggestion of any such explanation. McKethan testified, however, and attempted to offer one but, as a description of it will indicate, it may fairly be regarded as preposterous. The only believable explanation of the frequent trips is that offered by Robinson in his grand jury testimony, and the record of the trips strongly tends to corroborate the testimony.

McKethan was employed as a cargo handler by United Airlines in Washington National Airport. His airline employment, he testified, entitled him to very large discounts on airline fares, and he made his frequent trips to Frankfurt, Copenhagen, Amsterdam and London mostly for pleasure. For a while he had a girlfriend in Copenhagen, a fact that Robinson had mentioned. He was also learning the "language of the pyramids" from a black African in Europe,[1] and he was busy making inquiries in Germany and Sweden about the importation into the United States of Mercedes-Benz automobiles and Swedish sheepskin jackets. He did not suggest how an airline cargo handler might finance such businesses, nor was any such business developed.

Robinson, in his grand jury testimony, did not suggest that McKethan was a part of the distribution business conducted jointly by Garner and Robinson for a number of months, and later separately by each, but did testify

---

[1] According to McKethan, knowledge of this "lost language of the pyramids" would enable him to arrive eventually at "logical procedures of understanding." McKethan sought in Copenhagen "rythm[s] [*sic*] of understanding."

that McKethan was the one who initially suggested that he could put them in touch with Henry Thompson in Frankfurt as a source of supply. According to Robinson, he agreed to meet them in Frankfurt in September, but by the time Garner and Robinson arrived at Thompson's house, they were told by Thompson's girlfriend that she was to take them to Amsterdam. In Amsterdam they did meet McKethan and Thompson, who put them in touch with a Chinese supplier. According to Robinson, McKethan was paid some $10,000 for his part in arranging this source of supply for them. Later, Robinson had testified, McKethan agreed to meet Garner in Amsterdam, for the purpose of showing Garner how to avoid the thorough searches made of passengers flying out of Amsterdam to the United States. This turned out to be no more than taking a train from Amsterdam to Copenhagen and flying from there to the United States. Afterwards McKethan complained to Robinson that Garner had not paid him the $7,000 he promised. Moreover, the joint trip by Garner and McKethan in March 1975, against this background, does not suggest that McKethan was off on an independent lark of hiw own.

McKethan did admit having received a payment of $3500 from Robinson on one occasion, but he claimed that he had set up a grocery business for Robinson, though none of the stock was issued in Robinson's name, and the $3500 was in payment for his services in setting up the grocery business.

McKethan's testimony does not tarnish the badges of reliability for Robinson's grand jury testimony. He offered innocent explanations of his frequent trips to Europe, but the jury was entitled to find the explanation incredible. The fact remains that the truthfulness of Robinson's grand jury testimony is strengthened by the testimony of Miss McKee and, particularly, by the airline

tickets, customs declarations, passport endorsements, and hotel records. This is enough to satisfy the requirements of Rule 804(b)(5) and to avoid the bar of the hearsay rule. It also satisfies the requirements of the Confrontation Clause.

In this case, of course, Robinson did appear on the witness stand. Indeed, the defendants complain that this prejudiced their cases in the minds of the jurors, but the judge ordered the initial examination of Robinson in the presence of the jury in order that the jury would not be left with speculation about the reason for Robinson's absence, speculation which might have suggested inferences more hurtful to the defendants than Robinson's refusal to testify. He was presented for cross-examination only after Robinson had stated in an *in camera* hearing that he might answer the questions of defense counsel, and that he could not tell whether he would respond until they asked the questions. Though, as we have indicated earlier, the jurors may have taken Robinson's earlier disclaimers of knowledge as equivalent to a later explicit refusal to testify, they also may have received such disclaimers, with Robinson's statement that his grand jury testimony was inaccurate, as exculpatory. In any event, the jury saw and heard Robinson on the witness stand. What they saw and heard may have been of substantial assistance to the jury in assessing the truthfulness of his grand jury testimony. We do not hold, however, that this cross-examination under these difficult circumstances was adequate to meet the requirements of the Confrontation Clause. *Cf. U. S. v. Insana,* 423 F.2d 1165 (2d Cir.) *cert. denied,* 400 U.S. 841 (1970; U.S. v. Mingoia [*sic*], 424 F.2d 710 (2d Cir. 1970). It is enough that the grand jury testimony was admissible because of its strong corroboration by the testimony of Miss McKee and the undeniable records.

III.

Garner received two successive ten-year sentences under the federal narcotics conspiracy statute, one for conspiracy to import heroin in violation of 21 U.S.C. § 963 and one for engaging in a conspiracy to distribute heroin in violation of 21 U.S.C. § 846. He objects to the imposition of two successive sentences upon him, claiming that there was one conspiracy though it encompassed both importation and distribution.

The Supreme Court in *Braverman v. United States*, 317 U.S. 49 (1942), held that under the general conspiracy statute[2] Congress intended to authorize the imposition of only one sentence, though any given conspiracy may contemplate the commission of more than one substantive crime. What is required, however, is that each separate conspiracy statute be examined to determine the congressional intent with respect to the possible imposition of successive sentences.[3] With respect to the federal narcotics conspiracy statutes, this was carefully done by the Fifth Circuit in *United States v. Houltin*, 525 F.2d 943 (5th Cir. 1976), modified in 553 F.2d 991.[4] For the reasons stated by the Fifth Circuit in *Houltin*, we think that in enacting the federal narcotics acts the Congress regarded conspiracy to import heroin and conspiracy to distribute heroin in the United States nor [*sic*] only as separate offenses but as offenses so compounding each other that a conspiracy embracing each should be treated

---

[2]18 U.S.C. §371

[3]Simpson v. United States, ___ U.S. ___, 46 U.S.L.W. 4159 (1978); Gore v. United States, 357 U.S. 386 (1958).

[4]*Accord* United States v. Marotta, 518 F.2d 681, 685 (9th Cir. 1975). *But see* U.S. v. Honneus, 508 F.2d 566 (1st Cir. 1974); U.S. v. Adcock, 487 F.2d 637 (6th Cir. 1973).

as two separate conspiracies, warranting the imposition of successive sentences for violations of the two separate conspiracy statutes.

IV.

The defendants advanced a number of other contentions of less moment, but we find no reversible error in any of them.

AFFIRMED.

WIDENER, Circuit Judge, concurring and dissenting:

While I concur in Parts III and IV of the opinion, I respectfully dissent to admitting the grand jury testimony for the reasons I have expressed in *United States v. Payne,* 492 F2d 449 (4th Cir. 1974), and *United States v. West,* et al., Nos. 76-1837/1838/1839/1840/1841/1842/1843 (4th Cir. 1978).

PUBLISHED

APPENDIX B

UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS
FOR THE FOURTH CIRCUIT

No. 76-1837

United States of America,

Appellee,

versus

Calvin W. West,

Appellant.

No. 76-1838

United States of America,

Appellee,

versus

Calvin W. West,

Appellant.

No. 76-1839

United States of America,

Appellee,

versus

Calvin W. West,

Appellant.

No. 76-1840

United States of America,

Appellee,

versus

Floyd Lee Davis,

Appellant.

No. 76-1841

United States of America,

Appellee,

versus

Floyd Lee Davis,

Appellant.

No. 76-1842

United States of America,

Appellee,

versus

Calvin W. West,

Appellant.

No. 76-1843

United States of America,

Appellee,

versus

Joseph Lee Dempsey,

Appellant.

Appeal from the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia, at Norfolk. John A. MacKenzie, District Judge.

Argued January 14, 1977 Decided February 13, 1978

Before HAYNSWORTH, Chief Judge, RUSSELL and WIDENER, Circuit Judges

---

Robert L. Sondej (Mattox, Sondej, Young and Whitlow on brief) for Appellant in 76-1840 and 76-1841; Paul M. Lipkin (Robert H. Anderson, Jr., Goldblatt, Lipkin, Cohen, Anderson & Jenkins on brief) for Appellant in 76-1843; S. DeLacy Stith for Appellant in 76-1837, 76-1838, 76-1839 and 76-1842; Justin Williams, Assistant United States Attorney, Stephen Wainger, Assistant United States Attorney (William B. Cummings, United States Attorney on brief) for Appellee in 76-1837 through 76-1843.

HAYNSWORTH, Chief Judge:

Calvin W. West, Floyd Lee Davis and Joseph Lee Sempsey appeal their convictions for distributing heroin and possessing heroin with the intent to distribute it. The most significant question presented is whether the admission of the grand jury testimony of Michael Victor Brown, who was slain prior to trial, was permissible under Rule 804(b)(5) of the Federal Rules of Evidence and the Confrontation Clause of the Sixth Amendment. We hold that it was.

The convictions challenged here are the product of an extensive Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) investigation in which Brown played a vital role. Brown volunteered his assistance to the DEA while he was in jail on a drug charge and under a detainer for parole violation. He agreed to purchase heroin under police surveillance.

Each purchase was similar. Brown would contact West or Davis and arrange to purchase heroin. Twice the DEA

monitored Brown's calls to West arranging heroin deals. It also monitored one phone call to Davis. On other occasions it seems that Brown simply notified the DEA that he had arranged a purchase.

Each time that the DEA agents received notice that Brown was about to make a purchase, they made arrangements for extensive surveillance. Before each purchase, DEA agents strip-searched Brown to make sure that he had no drugs, and they concealed a transmitter on him. They then searched his vehicle to be sure that it contained no drugs and gave Brown the money required for the anticipated purchase.

According to the government's evidence, on three occasions, Brown went to West, gave West money, and obtained heroin. Twice Brown went to Davis, gave Davis money and obtained heroin. On another occasion, Brown gave West money then accompanied him to meet Dempsey. West then gave Dempsey money and told Brown that they were to meet Dempsey at Griffin's home. Brown and West went to Griffin's home. Dempsey arrived, went to the open window of Brown's car and then entered Griffin's home and told Brown that everything was all right. Brown then returned to his car to find 30 capsules of heroin.

Each time, law enforcement officials observed Brown's movements and obtained photographs of Brown as he met with West and with Davis. After each transaction Brown returned to the DEA office and surrendered the heroin that he had purchased and any money remaining. Each time the agents searched Brown and his car to be sure that he retained no contraband. Agent Scott then discussed with Brown the events that had taken place and composed a detailed summary of what had occurred, which Brown read, corrected and signed. After one of the

purchases Brown himself prepared a statement which Agent Scott revised before Brown read, corrected and signed it. Each time, Scott and Brown listened to the tapes from the body transmitter for audibility and voice identification. By reviewing the tapes with Brown, Scott independently became able to identify the voices of the defendants.

On March 8, 1976, the defendants and others were indicted by a grand jury, apparently without Brown's testimony. On March 16, Brown appeared before a grand jury and testified under oath regarding his knowledge of the drug traffic in Virginia's Tidewater area. The government attorney read the statements that Brown had signed and periodically asked Brown if they were correct.

As a result of his cooperation, Brown was released from jail, the pending drug charge against him was nol prossed, and the detainer for parole violation was lifted. The DEA also gave Brown $855 for his personal use so that he would not arouse suspicion and jeopardize his cover by being without funds immediately after supposedly selling a large amount of heroin.

On March 19 Brown was murdered in a manner suggestive of contract killers. Four bullets were fired into the back of his head while he was driving his car. According to the government, at least four potential government witnesses in this and related narcotics investigations have been murdered after they had agreed to cooperate. But these defendants have not been charged with Brown's murder, and the government did not offer any evidence to show that they were responsible for it.

On April 22, a week before the scheduled trial date, the government notified the defendants, pursuant to Rule 804(b)(5) of the Federal Rules of Evidence, that it intended to introduce Brown's grand jury testimony at trial. It agreed to give defense counsel all of its evidence.

including Brown's arrest record, and transcripts of the tapes of Brown's conversations with the defendants.

After a pre-trial hearing, the district court ruled that the grand jury testimony was admissible under Rule 804(b)(5) because, under the circumstances, it was essential and trustworthy. It also gave the defense a week's continuance after it announced that it would admit Brown's grand jury testimony.

During the trial the government introduced the transcript of Brown's grand jury testimony, the photographs, an expert on voice identification and the heroin. It also played the tapes of Brown's conversations with the defendants. Law enforcement agents testified about their observation of Brown's activities and corroborated Brown's highly detailed grand jury testimony. The government sought to introduce transcripts which it had prepared from the tapes from Brown's body transmitter. Although the district judge found that the transcripts were a fair representation of the taped conversations, he permitted the jury to see the transcripts only while they listened to the tapes and instructed the jurors to decide for themselves what the tapes said.

I.

The defendants contend that the district judge erred in concluding that the transcript of Brown's grand jury testimony was admissible under Rule 804(b)(5).

Rule 804(b)(5) provides:

"(b) *Hearsay exceptions.* The following are not excluded by the hearsay rule if the declarant is unavailable as a witness:

*****

"(5) *Other exceptions.* A statement not specifically covered by any of the foregoing exceptions but having equivalent circumstantial guarantees of trustworthiness, if the court determines that (A) the statement is offered as evidence of a material fact; (B) the statement is more probative on the point for which it is offered than any other evidence which the proponent can procure through reasonable efforts; and (C) the general purposes of these rules and the interests of justice will best be served by admission of the statement into evidence."

The defendants do not contend that the grand jury transcript fails to meet the criteria of clauses (A), (B) and (C). Instead, they focus upon the general requirement that the statement have "equivalent circumstantial guarantees of trustworthiness" as statements the admission of which is authorized by any of the preceding four paragraphs. They find a lack of trustworthiness in Brown's criminal record and their lack of any opportunity to cross-examine him. They point to legislative history indicating that Rule 804(b)(5) applies only where "exceptional circumstances" lend to the extra-judicial statement a degree of trustworthiness equivalent to that of evidence admissible under other § 804(b) exceptions.[1]

---

[1] The defendants also rely upon *United States v. Fiore*, 443 F.2d 112 (2d Cir. 1971) in which it was held that grand jury testimony was inadmissible where the declarant was physically available but refused to take the oath and submit to meaningful cross-examination. *Fiore* is inapposite, for it was decided before the adoption of Rule 804(b)(5). Two cases decided after adoption of the rule have reached opposite results. *Compare* United States v. Carlson, 547 F.2d 1346 (admitting prior grand jury testimony under Rule 804(b)(5) *with* United States v. Gonzalez, 559 F.2d 1271 (5th Cir. 1977) (testimony not admissible). Both courts focused for purposes of their analysis of the admissibility of the evidence under the F.R. Evid. on its reliability.

There were present very exceptional circumstances providing substantial guarantees of trustworthiness of Brown's grand jury testimony probably exceeding by far the substantial guarantees of trustworthiness of some of the other § 804(b) hearsay exceptions. Before each contact by Brown with West, Davis or Dempsey, the agents took elaborate steps to assure themselves that Brown possessed no drugs or money other than the money supplied by the agents to effect the purchases. Except when he entered a building and became concealed from their view he was under constant surveillance, and photographs were taken when he was with one of the defendants. Moreover, his transmitter was broadcasting his conversations with the defendants, and a tape recorder preserved those conversations. Moreover, immediately after each purchase, he and one of the agents reviewed what Brown had done, said and observed, and a statement of it was prepared and corrected. The immediate transcription and verification of Brown's statements provide an additional guarantee other admissible hearsay statements lack.[2] But the most impressive assurance of trustworthiness come [*sic*] from the corroboration provided by the observations of the agents, the pictures they took and their recordings of the conversations. Brown had a criminal record, and he was seeking favors to avoid further incarceration, but the circumstances make deception of the agents inconceivable. The agents simply followed, photographed and recorded conversations to such an extent that deception by Brown was substantially impossible. Moreover, his interest in gaining favors to avoid further imprisonment gave him every incentive to be extremely accurate in his reports. He knew what the agents were doing to corroborate and verify his reports, and any attempted deception

---

[2] *See* McCormick Evidence, §261 at 626 (2d Edition, 1972).

would only have been calculated to arouse the suspicion of the agents and to lose for Brown their favor.

The substantially contemporaneous sworn written statements by Brown were the basis of Brown's grand jury testimony. The corroborative circumstances and verification procedures lend to his grand jury testimony a degree of trustworthiness probably substantially exceeding that inherent in dying declarations, statements against interest, and statements of personal or family history, all of which are routinely admitted under §804 (b)(2)(3) and (4).

Although Brown's grand jury testimony was not subject to immediate cross-examination, to a large extent what Brown said was corroborated by the observations of the agents. The agents did appear as witnesses and were subject to cross-examination about what they observed, including the possibility of mistake or prevarication by Brown, and their own roles in preparing Brown's statements. Moreover, defense counsel had Brown's criminal record and knew of his interest in gaining favor with the agents. They could, and did, present those bases of impeachment of Brown which might have been developed on cross-examination if Brown had been present to testify.

Under all of these circumstances, the absence of an opportunity to cross-examine Brown himself is of considerable less significance than in those cases involving statements against interest, statements of family history, or dying declarations.

Whether the circumstantial guarantees of trustworthiness of Brown's grand jury testimony are equivalent to those which arise from cross or direct examination which underlies the former testimony exception of §804(e)(1), we need not determine. In this unusual case, those guar-

antees were probably greater, but the equivalent guarantee of trustworthiness requirement of §804(b)(5) is met if there is equivalency of any one of the preceding §804 (c) exceptions. Clearly there is such equivalency with the exceptions we find in paragraphs 2, 3, and 4.

The defense lawyers were given every opportunity to attack Brown's credibility, and they fully utilized their opportunities. It may be of passing significance that the jury did not accept all that Brown said, for it acquitted two of the defendants implicated by him. That it convicted West, Davis and Dempsey suggests that it carefully considered the very substantial extent to which the corroborative evidence established their guilt, either directly or through strong demonstration of the trustworthiness of Brown's testimony as to them.

II.

The contention is earnestly advanced that even though Brown's grand jury testimony meets the requirements of §804(b)(5) of the Federal Rules of Evidence, its admission was barred by the Confrontation Clause of the Sixth Amendment. That Clause provides "In all criminal prosecutions, the accused shall enjoy the right . . . to be confronted with the witnesses against him."

The Supreme Court has consistently held that the Confrontation Clause itself does more than to require that the prosecution produce available witnesses for live testimony. It affirmatively requires the exclusion of extrajudicial statements which have no badges of reliability. Thus, we are required to make a separate determination, focusing upon the Confrontation Clause itself, whether Brown's grand jury testimony bore sufficient guarantees of reliability, *Dutton v. Evans*, 400 U.S. 74, 89 (1970), or whether the circumstances provided the jury with suffi-

cient bases to judge its trustworthiness. *California v. Green*, 399 U.S. 149, 161 (1970).

It has long been recognized that the Confrontation Clause does not preclude the admission in a criminal trial of all extra-judicial declarations. As long ago as 1892, the Supreme Court held in *Mattox v. United States*, 146 U.S. 140, that the Confrontation Clause does not require the exclusion in a criminal trial of a dying declaration, and it recognized that there are other analogous situations in which extra-judicial declarations might be allowable.[3] More recently, statements against penal interest have been held admissible,[4] and in *California v. Green*, 399

---

[3] *Mattox* at 151.

[4] *Chambers v. Mississippi*, 410 U.S. 284 (1973); *Dutton v. Evans*, 400 U.S. 74 (1970). Though holding such declarations admissible, the Court, in *Chambers v. Mississippi*, was not concerned with the Confrontation Clause. At his trial, Chambers undertook to prove in his own defense that one McDonald, rather than he, fired the fatal shots. He sought to present McDonald as an adverse witness, but was prevented from doing so by an application of Mississippi's witness voucher rule. He then tendered three witnesses, close associates of McDonald's, who would have testified that, shortly after the slaying, McDonald had made spontaneous statements to each of them, separately, strongly implicating himself as the slayer. The testimony was rejected, for, while Mississippi recognized as an exception to the hearsay rule a statement against pecuniary or proprietary interest, it did not recognize as such an exception to the hearsay rule a statement against pecuniary or proprietary interest, it did not recognize as such an exception a statement against penal interest. The Supreme Court examined the indicia of trustworthiness surrounding these statements. These included their spontaneity, the fact that each was made in seeming confidence to a close associate, the fact that each tended to corroborate the other, the fact that there was an eyewitness to testify that McDonald fired the fatal shots, and the fact that McDonald was known to have owned a revolver similar to the one employed in the shooting. The conclusion was that the three declarations were shown to have been of sufficient trustworthiness that they were not only admissible, but their rejection was a denial of

[footnote continued]

U.S. 149 (1970), the Supreme Court held that testimony at a preliminary hearing was admissible when the witness at trial suffered a loss of memory, since the preliminary hearing testimony had been subject to cross-examination. Testimony at an earlier trial of a witness unavailable at the time of the retrial is similarly admissible, *Mancusi v. Stubbs*, 408 U.S. 404 (1972).

It is true that testimony of a witness at a preliminary hearing which was not at all subjected to cross-examination because the defendant had no lawyer present, constitutionally may not be admitted under the Confrontation Clause.[5] The Confrontation Clause also requires the exclusion of a confession implicating the defendant given to police by a witness who invoked his privilege against self incrimination to avoid testifying at the trial.[6] The confession was doubtless against the penal interest of the witness, but it was a confession given under potentially coercive circumstances which would not be adequately examined; they were not the spontaneous declarations made to friends and confederates which were held to be admissible under the Confrontation Clause in *Dutton v. Evans*.

The cases in the Supreme Court considering the application of the Confrontation Clause to the admission of previously recorded testimony have distinguished between testimony subject at the time to cross-examination

---

Chambers' due process right to a fair trial. The rejection of the testimony of those witnesses, coupled with the state's refusal to permit Chambers to cross-examine McDonald, who had repudiated a formal confession and asserted an alibi, resulted in the reversal of Chambers' conviction for want of a fair trial.

[5] *Pointer v. Texas*, 380 U.S. 400 (1965). See *Barber v. Page*, 390 U.S. 719 (1968).

[6] *Douglas v. Alabama*, 380 U.S. 415 (1965).

and testimony which was not. When tested to cross-examination, the testimony gained some added measure of reliability and, even with a written record, the trier of fact is given some basis for judging the credibility of the testimony from the answers to the cross-examination. It is not as satisfactory as it is when the trier of fact can observe the demeanor of the witness, but evasive answers may still appear evasive on paper, and forthrightness can be evident in writing.

The Supreme Court has never intimated, however, that cross-examination is the only means by which prior recorded testimony may be qualified for admission under the Confrontation Clause. Just as surrounding circumstances may give assurance of reliability to dying declarations and to declarations against penal interest, so surrounding circumstances may give assurance of reliability to prior recorded testimony which was not subject at the time to cross examination. They also may provide the trier of fact with firm bases for judging the credibility of the witness and the truthfulness of his testimony.[7]

Such circumstances are present in abundant measure here. We have canvassed them in considering the admis-

---

[7] *Compare* United States v. Rogers, 549 F.2d 490, 500 (8th Cir. 1976) (prior testimony of witness with memory lapse had sufficient indicia of reliability so that Confrontation Clause was not violated by admission) *with* U.S. v. Gonzalez, 559 F.2d 1271 (5th Cir. 1977) (grand jury testimony lacked surrounding indicia of reliability so that admission violated Confrontation Clause). Both the *Rogers* and *Gonzalez* courts acknowledged that the reliability of hearsay evidence in part determines whether admission of the evidence violates the Confrontation Clause. Each case must be examined on its own facts. We do not hold that all hearsay admissible under the 804(b)(5) exception to the rule against hearsay can be admitted without violation of the Confrontation Clause rights of a defendant. We hold only that analysis under both Rule 804(b)(5) and under the Confrontation Clause must begin by focusing on the reliability and trustworthiness of the challenged statement.

sibility of the testimony under §804(b)(5) of the Federal Rules of Evidence. The agents testified to their preparation of Brown for each contact with the defendants, to what they observed during their surveillance, to their recordings of Brown's conversations with the defendants and others, and the preparation of Brown's written and signed statements immediately after each event. Moreover, the jury listened to the tapes as well as the written statements, and the agents at the trial were subject to cross-examination about their testimony concerning what they did and what they observed. All of this lends a high degree of reliability and trustworthiness to Brown's testimony before the grand jury. It furnished the jury a firm basis for judging the truthfulness of what Brown said before the grand jury.

It should not be surprising that the same circumstances suffice to meet the requirements of §804(b)(5) and of the Confrontation Clause. This is true of other exceptions to the hearsay rule which do not contravene the Confrontation Clause. The dying declaration and the declaration against penal interest have indicia of reliability which warrant their admission as exceptions to the hearsay rule while at the same time warranting their admission under the Confrontation Clause.

In the plurality opinion in *Dutton*, rejected hearsay declarations involved in earlier cases were characterized as "devastating" or "crucial". This has led to the supposition that the principle of *Dutton* applies only when the declaration is neither crucial nor devastating, *see, The Supreme Court*, 1970 Term, 85 HARV. L. REV. 3, 192, 196 (1971); at least, the standard of reliability should be elevated as the adverse impact of an extra-judicial declaration increases. We, however, find no basis for applying such a rule. If the admission of the declaration is harm-

less, no problem is presented, but faithfulness to the constitutional principle demands the exclusion of all extrajudicial declarations having no substantial indicia of reliability if admission of the declaration would have some tendency to persuade the jury to a finding of guilt. A flexible standard of more or less indicia of reliability triggered by suppositions about the force of the impact of the particular evidence upon the jury could hardly provide a workable standard. Here, the indicia of reliability are great, but we reject the notion that small indications of reliability will suffice if the prejudicial effect of the declaration is supposed to be not great while preserving a stricter standard for the admission of declarations seemingly having a greater impact.

For these reasons, we find no error in the admission of Brown's grand jury testimony.

III.

We find nothing meriting discussion in the remaining contentions.

The agent's testimony that Brown had dialed West's telephone number and the agent's identification of West's voice, which he learned to recognize from frequent review of the tapes, was sufficient authentication of the tape of October 30, 1975.

Nor did the trial judge abuse his discretion in permitting the jury to see transcripts of the taped conversations as the tapes were being played. The transcripts were fair, though the judge instructed the jurors to depend upon their own hearing of the tapes. *United States v. Hall,* 342 F.2d 849, 853 (4 Cir. 1965).

The evidence of the guilt of West and Davis was more than abundant; that of Dempsey's guilt was quite adequate.

AFFIRMED.

WIDENER, Circuit Judge, dissenting:

I respectfully dissent.

I

Initially, I believe that the majority errs in its estimation of the reliability of testimony taken before a grand jury and therefore not subject to cross-examination. In a recent opinion of this court, *N.L.R.B. v. McClure Associates, Inc.*, 556 F.2d 725 (1977), we held that the affidavit of an individual who had no interest in the outcome of the proceedings, and was not an employee of the company, obtained by an agent of the National Labor Relations Board in the ordinary course of his investigation of an unfair labor practice charge, and offered against the Board by the company in its defense to the charge, did not have such equivalent circumstantial guarantees of trustworthiness as to allow its admission.[1] Accordingly, I do not agree that the guarantees of trustworthiness surrounding the grand jury testimony in this case are any greater and should not be held sufficient to allow its introduction into evidence under the residual exception

[1] The opinion refers to the consideration of admission under Federal Rules of Evidence 803(24) which is identical in text to 804(b)(5) upon which rests the majority's decision to allow the admission of the hearsay grand jury testimony into evidence. I see no difference of moment here in the equivalent guarantees of trustworthiness under the two rules just cited.

to the hearsay rule. Certainly the rule of exclusion should be at least as broad in criminal as in civil proceedings.

II.

I raise again the objections I voiced in the dissent in *United States v. Payne,* 492 F.2d 449 (4th Cir. 1974). Here, as in that decision, the majority has confused the issues of the admissibility of hearsay and the right of a criminal defendant to be confronted by his accusers. While the two different rules of law may "stem from the same roots," they are by no means identical, but are closely akin.[2] *Dutton v. Evans,* 400 US 74, at p. 86 (1970).

The majority's treatment of the confrontation clause again, as in *Payne,* reduces the constitutional provision to the status of a mere rule of evidence when, in fact, the clause was intended to regulate the procedure of a criminal trial by compelling the presence of the accuser before the jury and the defendant. The court concludes that because the grand jury testimony is reliable, the confrontation clause is not violated; that because the circumstances surrounding the testimony, including the corroboration of Brown's assertions by the federal agents, indicate that Brown may well have been truthful, the jury could assess his veracity in his absence. At root, then, of the majority's analysis is its conclusion that Brown indeed spoke the truth, that his testimony was reliable, being corroborated, and that, the jury having been presently with sufficient indications of Brown's sincerity, the defendant's right of confrontation was not abridged.

---

[2] "It seems apparent that the Sixth Amendment's Confrontation Clause and the evidentiary hearsay rule stem from the same roots. But this court has never equated the two, and we decline to do so now." *Dutton,* at p. 86 (footnotes omitted).

This analysis is, however, misplaced.[3] While it has been said "the mission of the confrontation clause is to advance a practical concern for the accuracy of the truth determining process in criminal trials by assuring that 'the trier of fact [has] a satisfactory basis for evaluating the truth of the prior statement,' *California v. Greene,*" *Dutton v. Evans,* 400 US at p. 89, the whole question is not, as the majority treats it, whether the testimony is in fact truthful; rather, the issue is whether there has been such "adequate 'confrontation' " as to satisfy the requirements of the Constitution's Sixth Amendment. *Dutton,* 400 US at p. 97 (Harlan, J., concurring). Hence, we should not be lured by the possible reliability of out-of-court statements, important as that is in the consideration of the problem as a rule of evidence, away from the ultimate constitutional prescription, which is the regulation of trial procedure.

The majority opinion proves too much. With all its analysis of the surrounding indicia of the reliability of Brown's grand jury testimony, one conclusion is compelled: the introduction of the testimony was far from being harmless error.

The government, indeed, succeeded in presenting to the jury evidence full of danger to the accused, without incurring the risk of either a personal view of the declarant by the jury or a face-to-face encounter between the accuser and the accused before the jury, the ultimate arbiter in the contest of truth between the two. Instead, the jury merely heard read the testimony given in the proceedings of the grand jury, written on paper with that

---

[3]The majority follows the path of the plurality opinion in *Dutton* which also looked to indicia of reliability rather than whether the defendant had been confronted.

additional indicia of verity, and persuasive in its solemnity. In my opinion, this procedure cannot be described other than as trial by affidavit, the very practice against which the confrontation clause was designed to protect. "The primary object of the constitutional provision in question was to prevent depositions or *ex parte* affidavits, such as were sometimes admitted in civil cases, being used against the prisoner in lieu of a personal examination and cross-examination of the witness in which the accused has an opportunity, not only of testing the recollection and sifting the conscience of the witness, but *of compelling him to stand face to face with the jury in order that they may look at him, and judge by his demeanor upon the stand and the manner in which he gives his testimony whether he is worthy of belief.*" *Mattox v. United States,* 156 US 237 (1895) (emphasis added).

Hence, the confrontation clause invokes a means of trial procedure which provides a minimal, or threshold, level of protection to the defendant. It expresses our constitutional condemnation of trial by affidavit and the concomitant conclusion that the accuser should appear, *personaliter,* in order that the jury might observe his demeanor and appearance in the crucible of courtroom confrontation. Historically, the rule required the presence of the accuser; later, the accused was extended, since the declarant was there, the right to cross-examine. Now, the constitutional requisites include both "the opportunity to cross-examine and the occasion for the jury to weigh the demeanor of the witness." *Barber v. Page,* 390 US 719, at p. 725 (1968). Thus, the essence of the confrontation clause is the judgment that, as a procedural requirement, the defendant is entitled, at the very least, to the presence of his accuser before him and the jury. In the absence of circumstances accepted by the Supreme Court as meeting the clause's requirements, I

believe that the confrontation clause prescribes, at a minimum, the presence of the witness who would testify against the defendant.

I might have less objection had the majority taken a recognized exception, such as found in *Mattox*, and extended its reasoning to this case. The *Mattox* decision, which allows the use of a transcript of testimony from a former trial when the witness has since died, is firmly rooted in the ancient British statutes which form the historical foundation of the confrontation clause, such statutes making exception for the case of a dead witness.[4] Appreciating these historical roots, this court might have declared that the murder of a witness, whether his death be at the hands of the defendant or not, as here, allows the transcript of former grand jury testimony to be used in evidence. While such a rule might burden the defendant with the risk of the witness' safety, it at least would be true to the meaning and history of the constitutional provision.

---

[4] As discussed in *Payne*, the confrontation requirements of the Constitution seem to originate in the reaction to the treason trial of Sir Walter Raleigh. In his defense, Raleigh attempted to rely on statutes which required the presence and testimony of two witnesses in a trial for treason. Even though the statutes had been repealed, there are indications that popular sentiment is England remained toward requiring the proof of treason by two witnesses. See *Bowen, The Lion and the Throne*, p. 195. Thus, the statutes represented a first step in the development of the rule "requiring the personal production of those who had already made a statement upon oath." *V Wigmore on Evidence* (Chadbourne rev. 1974), §1364, at p. 20. Those statutes, Stat. 5 Edw. 6, c. 12, §22 and Stat. 1 & 2 Philip and Mary, c. 10, §11, provided an exception to the two witness rule in the case of a deceased witness. For example, Stat. 5 Edw. read: "Which said accusers at the time of the arraignment of the party accused, *if they be then living*, shall be brought in person before the party so accused, and avow and maintain that which they have to say to prove him guilty. . . ." (Emphasis added)

However, the majority has not chosen to follow that alternative and, instead, I think mistakenly, equates the Constitution's regulation of procedure with the rules of evidence. And it fails to answer the most important question: did the defendant have an opportunity to confront Brown? Accordingly, the opinion dismisses, in a footnote, the defendant's reliance on *United States v. Fiore,* 443 F.2d 112 (2d Cir. 1971), because that opinion was decided before the adoption of the Federal Rules of Evidence and Rule 804(b)(5). But *Fiore* rejected the admission of grand jury testimony on alternative grounds: because it was heresay and because its admission would violate the confrontation clause. 443 F.2d at p. 115. It is at once apparent the reasoning of the majority on that point is facially self defeating, for, while Congress may alter the law of hearsay, it may not change the confrontation clause. *Marbury v. Madison,* 1 Cranch 137 (Feb. Term 1803). Hence, on the constitutional issue, *Fiore,* by Judge Friendly, is still good law, and we find ourselves in conflict with the Second Circuit.

I see the use of Brown's grand jury testimony to be no more than the disreputable trial by affidavit, the very cause of the confrontation clause. Even assuming the murder of a witness might excuse the use of a transcript of his grand jury testimony, I would not go so far, for his accidental or otherwise natural death would compel the same result if the reasoning here is adopted. Grand jury proceedings are ex parte, with no right of cross-examination. The object of the proceedings is to gain an indictment upon a showing of probable cause; thus, there is not a full blown investigation into the truth, but, like a preliminary hearing, is "ordinarily a much less searching exploration into the merits of the case than a trial, simply because its function is the more limited one of determining whether probable cause exists to hold the accused for

trial." *Barber v. Page*, 390 US at p. 725. Finally, we must recognize that a witness will often make accusations behind the back of the accused which he will not repeat to his face.

For these reasons, I would hold that the admission of the grand jury testimony violated the defendant's right to confront his accuser. Even assuming the murder of the witness might excuse the use of the transcript of his grand jury testimony, I would yet reserve that question for the time when the Supreme Court, in its efforts to equate the constitutional requirements of the confrontation clause with the rules of evidence, might squarely address that issue.

Supreme Court, U. S.
FILED
JUN 30 1978
MICHAEL RODAK, JR., CLERK

Nos. 77-1545 and 77-1557

In the Supreme Court of the United States

OCTOBER TERM, 1977

EVERETT C. MCKETHAN, PETITIONER

v.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

EARL A. GARNER, PETITIONER

v.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

ON PETITIONS FOR A WRIT OF CERTIORARI TO THE UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS FOR THE FOURTH CIRCUIT

BRIEF FOR THE UNITED STATES IN OPPOSITION

WADE H. MCCREE, JR.,
Solicitor General,

JOHN C. KEENEY,
Acting Assistant Attorney General,

JEROME M. FEIT,
WILLIAM C. BROWN,
Attorneys,
Department of Justice,
Washington, D.C. 20530.

INDEX

	Page
Opinion below	1
Jurisdiction	2
Questions presented	2
Statement	2
Argument	5
Conclusion	17

CITATIONS

Cases:

American Tobacco Co. v. *United States*, 328 U.S. 781	14
Barber v. *Page*, 390 U.S. 719	9
Blockburger v. *United States*, 284 U.S. 299	15
Braverman v. *United States*, 317 U.S. 49	13, 14, 16
California v. *Green*, 399 U.S. 149	10
Chambers v. *Mississippi*, 410 U.S. 284	9-10
Dutton v. *Evans*, 400 U.S. 74	10, 12
Gore v. *United States*, 357 U.S. 386	15
Kirby v. *United States*, 174 U.S. 47	10
Mattox v. *United States*, 156 U.S. 237	10, 11
Pointer v. *Texas*, 380 U.S. 400	9, 10
Snyder v. *Massachusetts*, 291 U.S. 97	10
United States v. *Adcock*, 487 F. 2d 637	16
United States v. *Arteaga-Limones*, 529 F. 2d 1183, certiorari denied, 429 U.S. 920	15
United States v. *Bailey*, 439 F. Supp. 1303	12

Cases—continued: Page

United States v. *Carlson*, 547 F. 2d 1346, certiorari denied, 431 U.S. 914 7
United States v. *Fiore*, 443 F. 2d 112 ..... 12, 13
United States v. *Gonzalez*, 559 F. 2d 1271 8
United States v. *Honneus*, 508 F. 2d 566, certiorari denied, 421 U.S. 948 16
United States v. *Houltin*, 525 F. 2d 943, vacated on other grounds *sub nom. Croucher* v. *United States*, 429 U.S. 1034 15-16
United States v. *James*, 494 F. 2d 1007, certiorari denied *sub nom. Jackson* v. *United States*, 419 U.S. 1020 16
United States v. *Marotta*, 518 F. 2d 681 16
United States v. *Medico*, 557 F. 2d 309, certiorari denied, No. 77-5210, December 5, 1977 ..... 11, 13
United States v. *Rivera Diaz*, 538 F. 2d 461 16
United States v. *Ward*, 552 F. 2d 1080, certiorari denied, No. 76-6920, October 3, 1977 9
United States v. *Warholic*, C.A. 9, No. 76-1206, decided December 10, 1976, certiorari denied, 431 U.S. 905 15
United States v. *West*, C.A. 4, Nos. 76-1837 through 76-1843, decided February 13, 1978 ..... 7, 12

Constitution, statutes and rules:

United States Constitution:

Fifth Amendment, Double Jeopardy Clause 15

Constitution, statutes and rules—continued: Page

Sixth Amendment, Confrontation Clause 2, 9, 10, 11, 12

Comprehensive Drug Abuse Prevention and Control Act of 1970, 84 Stat. 1236 .. 15

21 U.S.C. 846 ..... 2, 3, 13, 15, 16
21 U.S.C. 952(a) 3
21 U.S.C. 963 ..... 2, 3, 13, 15, 16

18 U.S.C. 371 14
18 U.S.C. 1952 3

Federal Rules of Evidence:

Rule 403 12
Rule 803(24) 11
Rule 804 7
Rule 804(b)(5) 2, 4, 6, 8, 9, 11, 12, 13

Miscellaneous:

Advisory Committee Note to Rule 803 (24), Federal Rules of Evidence, 56 F.R.D. 183, 320 10
H.R. Rep. No. 93-650, 93d Cong., 1st Sess. (1973) 11
McCormick on *Evidence* (2d ed. 1972) 10
S. Rep. No. 93-1277, 93d Cong., 2d Sess. (1974) 11
4 Weinstein's *Evidence* (1977) 12

In the Supreme Court of the United States

OCTOBER TERM, 1977

No. 77-1545

EVERETT C. MCKETHAN, PETITIONER

v.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

No. 77-1557

EARL A. GARNER, PETITIONER

v.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

ON PETITIONS FOR A WRIT OF CERTIORARI TO THE UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS FOR THE FOURTH CIRCUIT

BRIEF FOR THE UNITED STATES IN OPPOSITION

OPINION BELOW

The opinion of the court of appeals (Pet. App. A)[1] is not yet reported.

---

[1] "Pet. App." refers to the appendix to the petition in No. 77-1545.

JURISDICTION

The judgment of the court of appeals was entered on February 17, 1978. After consideration of a petition for rehearing, the court issued a revised opinion on March 30, 1978. The petition for a writ of certiorari in No. 77-1545 was filed on April 28, 1978, and the petition in No. 77-1557 was filed on April 29, 1978. The jurisdiction of this Court is invoked under 28 U.S.C. 1254(1).

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether the grand jury testimony of a witness who was unavailable at trial for direct examination by the government or full cross-examination by petitioners was properly admitted into evidence under Rule 804(b)(5) of the Federal Rules of Evidence.

2. Whether introduction of the witness's grand jury testimony at trial violated the Confrontation Clause of the Sixth Amendment.

3. Whether, on the facts of this case, petitioner Garner was properly convicted of both conspiracy to import heroin, in violation of 21 U.S.C. 963, and conspiracy to distribute heroin, in violation of 21 U.S.C. 846.

STATEMENT

Following a jury trial in the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia, petitioner Garner was convicted of conspiracy to import heroin, in violation of 21 U.S.C. 963, conspiracy to distribute

and to possess with intent to distribute heroin, in violation of 21 U.S.C. 846, and importation of heroin, in violation of 21 U.S.C. 952(a). Petitioner McKethan was convicted of conspiracy to import heroin, in violation of 21 U.S.C. 963, and traveling in foreign commerce in furtherance of the unlawful heroin importation enterprise, in violation of the Travel Act, 18 U.S.C. 1952. Petitioner Garner was sentenced to consecutive terms of ten years' imprisonment and three years' special parole on each count. Petitioner McKethan was sentenced to five years' imprisonment and three years' special parole on his conspiracy conviction and to a consecutive one-year term of imprisonment on the Travel Act conviction. The court of appeals affirmed, with one judge dissenting in part (Pet. App. A).

Petitioners were charged as principal participants in conspiracies formed in July 1974 for the purpose of importing large quantities of heroin into the United States from Europe and then distributing the narcotics in the Washington, D.C. area. Among those named as co-conspirators with petitioners were Warren Robinson, Mary McKee, Henry Thompson, Teresa Hallums and Thomas Harley. At trial, the government sought to rely heavily on the testimony of Robinson, who had pleaded guilty to two charges based on his role in the heroin importation and distribution enterprise prior to trial and had appeared as a witness before the grand jury (Pet. App. 4a-5a). When called as a witness at trial, however, Robinson refused to testify (Pet. App. 5a). He persisted in this refusal

without explanation even after he had been granted use immunity and had been threatened by the district court with contempt (*ibid.*). The court then ruled that Robinson was unavailable as a witness and allowed his grand jury testimony to be admitted into evidence pursuant to Rule 804(b)(5), Fed. R. Evid. (Tr. 320).

Robinson's grand jury testimony established that in 1974 petitioner Garner approached him with information that petitioner McKethan had a source for large quantities of heroin in West Germany (G. Ex. 70, p. 9). During the next several months, petitioners and Robinson traveled to Europe on eight separate occasions to purchase the heroin. On a trip to Frankfurt in July or August 1974, petitioner McKethan introduced petitioner Garner to his contact, known as "T," from whom they purchased about ten ounces of heroin for $12,000 (*id.* at 12-13).[2] Petitioner Garner transported the heroin to the United States, and he and Robinson sold it in the Washington area for about $25,000 (*id.* at 13). Robinson later paid petitioner McKethan $10,000 for his assistance in the transaction (*id.* at 45-46). The profits from these sales were used by petitioners and Robinson to make additional visits to West Germany and Holland for the purpose of purchasing larger and larger quantities of heroin, culminating in March 1975 with the purchase of two kilograms of heroin in Amsterdam for

---

[2] "T" was a code name for Thompson, petitioner McKethan's cousin (Pet. App. 9a).

$90,000 (*id.* at 57). Robinson traveled with petitioner Garner on two of these trips and was informed by petitioners of the other ones.

On one of the European trips petitioner Garner and Robinson were accompanied by McKee and Hallums, who returned separately to the United States with the heroin concealed in their girdles. The women subsequently delivered the narcotics to petitioner Garner and Robinson (G. Ex. 70, pp. 21-27). McKee testified at trial and fully corroborated Robinson's description of the trip (Tr. 172-190). Records of airline tickets, custom declarations, passport endorsements, and European hotel registrations also confirmed that petitioner McKethan had made five trips to western Europe between July 1974 and March 1975 and that petitioner Garner had made seven such trips in the same period (Pet. App. 8a-9a). These records further showed that petitioner McKethan had been in Amsterdam in early September 1974, about the time Robinson testified that he had arranged petitioners' first contact with a Chinese supplier in that city (*id.* at 9a). Petitioners were also in Copenhagen at the same time in December 1974 and apparently were on the same flights to Copenhagen and Amsterdam in March 1975 (*ibid.*).

ARGUMENT

1. Petitioners contend that the district court erred in admitting Robinson's grand jury testimony because (a) the testimony did not satisfy the "trustworthiness" requirement of the exception to the hearsay rule

provided by Rule 804(b)(5) of the Federal Rules of Evidence and (b) admission of the testimony, even if authorized by Rule 804(b)(5), violated the Confrontation Clause of the Sixth Amendment.

a. Rule 804(b)(5), Fed. R. Evid., provides:

> **Hearsay exceptions.** The following are not excluded by the hearsay rule if the declarant is unavailable as a witness:
>
> * * * * *
>
> (5) **Other exceptions.** A statement not specifically covered by any of the foregoing exceptions but having equivalent circumstantial guarantees of trustworthiness, if the court determines that (A) the statement is offered as evidence of a material fact; (B) the statement is more probative on the point for which it is offered than any other evidence which the proponent can procure through reasonable efforts; and (C) the general purposes of these rules and the interests of justice will best be served by admission of the statement into evidence. However, a statement may not be admitted under this exception unless the proponent of it makes known to the adverse party sufficiently in advance of the trial or hearing to provide the adverse party with a fair opportunity to prepare to meet it, his intention to offer the statement and the particulars of it, including the name and address of the declarant.

Thus, contrary to petitioners' assertions (Pet. 13; Pet. No. 77-1557, p. 9), testimony before a grand jury is not made routinely admissible by Rule 804(b)(5). The Rule requires that before an out-of-court

statement may be introduced at trial the district court must determine that the declarant is unavailable, that "the statement is offered as evidence of a material fact," that "the statement is more probative on the point for which it is offered than any other evidence which the proponent can procure through reasonable efforts," and that "the general purposes of these rules and the interests of justice will best be served by admission of the statement into evidence." Petitioners apparently do not dispute that these conditions were satisfied here.

The Rule also requires that the statement have "circumstantial guarantees of trustworthiness" equivalent to the traditional hearsay exceptions listed elsewhere in Rule 804, namely, prior testimony subject to cross-examination, dying declarations, statements against interest, or statements of personal or family history. In this case the court of appeals carefully assessed Robinson's grand jury testimony—which was based on his personal knowledge, which was given under oath, and for which he was subject to the penalties of perjury—in light of all of the other evidence at trial and properly found that the "strong indicators of reliability" (Pet. App. 8a) present here were sufficient to satisfy the trustworthiness requirement of the Rule (*id.* at 7a-12a). See *United States* v. *West*, C.A. 4, Nos. 76-1837 through 76-1843, decided February 13, 1978 (reproduced in Pet. App. B); *United States* v. *Carlson*, 547 F. 2d 1346, 1354 (C.A. 8), certiorari denied, 431 U.S. 914.

The court below noted that McKee, who had accompanied Robinson and petitioner Garner to Amsterdam on their trip in October 1974, testified at trial and fully corroborated the details of Robinson's grand jury testimony about the trip (Pet. App. 8a). Furthermore, records of airline tickets, customs declarations, passport endorsements, and European hotel registrations provided "irrefutable evidence of [the] travels" of petitioners, Robinson and Thompson, a co-conspirator used initially as a heroin contact and then as a courier (*id.* at 8a-10a). Finally, petitioner McKethan's testimony at trial failed to provide a credible explanation of those travels (*id.* at 10a-11a). In sum, as the court of appeals concluded, "[t]he only believable explanation of the frequent trips is that offered by Robinson in his grand jury testimony, and the record of the trips strongly tends to corroborate the testimony" (*id.* at 10a). This factual determination, concurred in by both courts below, does not require further review.[3]

---

[3] Petitioners' claim that the court of appeals' holding conflicts with *United States* v. *Gonzalez*, 559 F. 2d 1271 (C.A. 5), is unfounded. In *Gonzalez*, the court held only that the particular grand jury testimony in that case was not sufficiently reliable to be admitted under Rule 804(b)(5). Unlike Robinson's testimony, the grand jury testimony in *Gonzalez* did not provide detailed facts concerning the defendant and was not corroborated by substantial other evidence in the case, and the declarant was an unwilling witness who agreed to testify only after he had been threatened with repeated appearances before successive grand juries and an unlimited number of six-month contempt sentences if he did not testify and name his co-conspirator. *Id.* at 1272-1273. In other in-

b. Petitioners' contention that the admission of Robinson's grand jury testimony violated the Confrontation Clause is also incorrect. To begin with, this is not a case, such as *Pointer* v. *Texas*, 380 U.S. 400, in which an out-of-court declarant was completely unavailable for confrontation by the defense. After his grand jury testimony had been read to the jury, Robinson was called to the stand by defense counsel and testified that he had told the government attorney that his grand jury testimony was inaccurate (Tr. 565). He also asserted that he had had no drug dealings with petitioners (Tr. 565, 568). Robinson then repeated his earlier statement that he was not going to testify, and, in response to most further questions, he either stated that he had no knowledge or he refused to answer (Tr. 565-576). Thus, although the cross-examination was restricted, the jury did have the opportunity to see and hear Robinson testify on the matter, and, as the court of appeals observed, what they saw and heard may well have been of substantial assistance in assessing the truthfulness of Robinson's grand jury testimony (Pet. App. 12a). See *Barber* v. *Page*, 390 U.S. 719, 725.

The Confrontation Clause has never been construed to create an absolute bar to the admission of hearsay testimony by an unavailable declarant. See *Chambers*

---

stances, in which the out-of-court testimony was more reliable, the Fifth Circuit, like the Fourth, has upheld the admissibility of evidence under Rule 804(b)(5). See *United States* v. *Ward*, 552 F. 2d 1080, 1083 (C.A. 5), certiorari denied, No. 76-6920, October 3, 1977.

v. *Mississippi*, 410 U.S. 284, 295. As the Court noted in *Dutton* v. *Evans*, 400 U.S. 74, 89, "the mission of the Confrontation Clause is to advance a practical concern for the accuracy of the truth-determining process in criminal trials * * *." Hence, hearsay testimony is frequently introduced in the form of, *e.g.*, former testimony, dying declarations, and statements against interest, and, although the defendant may be deprived of the opportunity literally to "confront" his accuser at trial, the constitutionality of admitting such evidence has repeatedly been upheld. See, *e.g.*, *Mattox* v. *United States*, 156 U.S. 237, 243; *Kirby* v. *United States*, 174 U.S. 47, 61; *Pointer* v. *Texas*, *supra*, 380 U.S. at 407; *California* v. *Green*, 399 U.S. 149, 165-168. See generally McCormick on *Evidence* 606-607 (2d ed. 1972). The Sixth Amendment is not offended in these situations because the hearsay statement carries a substantial guarantee of reliability, either because of its context or its content, and the obvious need for the evidence, lest the truth-finding process be perverted, outweighs the arguments advanced for exclusion.

The proposed Federal Rules of Evidence, as prescribed by this Court and transmitted to Congress, contained a residual hearsay exception in addition to these traditional exceptions because, according to the Advisory Committee Notes, it would be "presumptuous to assume that all possible desirable exceptions to the hearsay rule have been catalogued * * *" (56 F.R.D. 183, 320). See *Snyder* v. *Massachusetts*, 291 U.S. 97, 107 ("The exceptions [to the hearsay rule]

are not even static, but may be enlarged from time to time if there is no material departure from the reason of the general rule"). See also *Mattox* v. *United States*, *supra*, 156 U.S. at 243-244. Although the House Committee on the Judiciary voted to delete the residual exception because it felt that the provisions injected "too much uncertainty into the law of evidence and [might impair] the ability of practitioners to prepare for trial" (H.R. Rep. No. 93-650, 93d Cong., 1st Sess. 5-6 (1973)), the Senate Judiciary Committee adopted Rule 804(b)(5) and its counterpart, Rule 803(24), in their present form. The Senate Committee observed that the rules were not intended as "a broad license" to trial judges to admit hearsay testimony but were designed for "exceptional circumstances," and it admonished judges to "exercise no less care, reflection and caution than the courts did under the common law in establishing the now-recognized exceptions to the hearsay rule." S. Rep. No. 93-1277, 93d Cong., 2d Sess. 20 (1974). The Senate proposals were accepted by the Conference Committee and enacted into law. See *United States* v. *Medico*, 557 F. 2d 309, 314-315 (C.A. 2), certiorari denied, No. 77-5210, December 5, 1977.

Rule 804(b)(5) thus satisfies the central concerns of the Confrontation Clause by prohibiting the introduction of out-of-court statements of an unavailable declarant unless the statements meet three specified criteria, which confine the availability of the exception to a limited group of cases in which the public

need for the evidence is apparent, and also contain substantial guarantees of trustworthiness equivalent to those that gave rise at common law to the established hearsay exceptions recognized elsewhere in the Rule.[4] The court below was sensitive to these Sixth Amendment considerations, remarking in its opinion in *United States* v. *West*, *supra*, that "[e]ach case must be examined on its own facts" and refusing to hold that "all hearsay admissible under the 804(b)(5) exception to the rule against hearsay can be admitted without violation of the Confrontation Clause rights of a defendant" (Pet. App. 27a n. 7).[5] After a thorough review of the circumstances of this case, the court held only that, in light of the substantial indications of reliability discussed above, the admission of Robinson's prior testimony was authorized by Rule 804(b)(5) and did not violate the interests protected by the Confrontation Clause. See *Dutton* v. *Evans*, *supra*, 400 U.S. at 89; *United States* v. *Bailey*, 439 F. Supp. 1303, 1306-1308 (W.D. Pa.).[6]

---

[4] Even if the stringent requirements of the Rule have been satisfied, the trial judge possesses discretion to refuse admission of the evidence for other reasons. See Fed. R. Evid. 403; 4 Weinstein's *Evidence* ¶ 804(b)(5)[01] at p. 804-102 (1977).

[5] Thus, petitioner McKethan's statement that the court of appeals "equat[ed] the question of admissibility under the rules of evidence with admissibility under the Confrontation Clause" (Pet. 10) is incorrect.

[6] This holding does not conflict with *United States* v. *Fiore*, 443 F. 2d 112 (C.A. 2), where the court stated that the admission of the grand jury testimony of a witness not subject to cross-examination at trial "would appear to offend not only

3. Petitioner Garner received consecutive sentences of ten years' imprisonment on his convictions of conspiracy to import heroin, in violation of 21 U.S.C. 963, and conspiracy to distribute heroin, in violation of 21 U.S.C. 846. He argues (Pet. 14-16) that the government proved only a single agreement encompassing both importation and distribution and that the imposition of successive sentences runs afoul of this Court's ruling in *Braverman* v. *United States*, 317 U.S. 49.

From the facts adduced at trial, however, the jury might reasonably have concluded that petitioner Garner engaged in two conspiracies, one to import the heroin and another to distribute the drug within the United States. The evidence did not suggest that petitioner McKethan was a part of the distribution business conducted jointly by petitioner Garner and Robinson (Pet. App. 10a-11a). Rather, petitioner McKethan's role was to locate foreign sources and assist in the importation scheme in Europe (*id.* at 11a). Thus, the jury could have concluded that petitioner Garner entered into an agreement with petitioner McKethan and others to import the heroin and had a separate agreement with Robinson and others to distribute that heroin. Indeed, the jury's acquittal of

---

the hearsay rule * * * but the confrontation clause * * * as well." *Id.* at 115. *Fiore* was decided before the adoption of Rule 804(b)(5), and the witness in that case, unlike Robinson, was not subjected to even a limited cross-examination. The Second Circuit subsequently has upheld the admission of evidence under Rule 804(b)(5) where "several factors contribute[d] to the reliability of [the] testimony." *United States* v. *Medico*, *supra*, 557 F. 2d at 315.

petitioner McKethan on the charge of conspiracy to distribute heroin, while convicting him of conspiracy to import it, strongly supports this conclusion.

However that may be, petitioner's reliance on *Braverman* v. *United States*, *supra*, is misplaced. Although the Court concluded in *Braverman* that a single agreement to commit several unlawful acts could not be punished by multiple convictions under the general conspiracy statute, 18 U.S.C. 371, its holding did not reach the situation, presented here, where two specific conspiracy statutes are violated. This was settled in *American Tobacco Co.* v. *United States*, 328 U.S. 781, where the defendants, convicted of conspiracy to restrain trade, in violation of Section 1 of the Sherman Act, and conspiracy to monopolize, in violation of Section 2 of that statute, argued that *Braverman* barred two convictions for what they alleged was "but one conspiracy, namely, a conspiracy to fix prices" (328 U.S. at 788). This Court rejected the claim, holding that a single agreement with several unlawful objects might amount to more than one conspiracy if different elements of the agreement violate different conspiracy statutes: "In contrast to the single conspiracy described in [*Braverman*] in separate counts, all charged under the general conspiracy statute [18 U.S.C. 371], we have here separate statutory offenses, one a conspiracy in restraint of trade that may stop short of monopoly, and the other a conspiracy to monopolize that may not be content with restraint

short of monopoly. One is made criminal by § 1 and the other by § 2 of the Sherman Act" (*ibid.*).[7]

The same reasoning applies here. Petitioner violated two distinct criminal statutes, each aimed at preventing a different evil and each prescribing a separate punishment.[8] In enacting these statutes, Congress determined that a conspiracy both to import heroin into the United States and to distribute the heroin within the country presented greater harm to our nation, and hence was deserving of greater potential punishment, than did a conspiracy to import heroin for personal use or a conspiracy to distribute heroin already available within the country. Accordingly, the court of appeals properly upheld the multiple convictions and consecutive sentences imposed upon petitioner Garner on the conspiracy counts. Accord, *United States* v. *Warholic*, C.A. 9, No. 76-1206, decided December 10, 1976 (unpublished), certiorari denied, 431 U.S. 905; *United States* v. *Arteaga-Limones*, 529 F. 2d 1183, 1194 (C.A. 5), certiorari denied, 429 U.S. 920; *United States* v. *Houltin*, 525 F. 2d 943, 950-952 (C.A. 5), vacated on other grounds

---

[7] It is clear that Congress may punish separately several aspects of a single transaction without offending the Double Jeopardy Clause. See *Gore* v. *United States*, 357 U.S. 386, 389-390; *Blockburger* v. *United States*, 284 U.S. 299, 301-304.

[8] Sections 846 and 963 of Title 21 were passed as part of the Comprehensive Drug Abuse Prevention and Control Act of 1970, 84 Stat. 1236. Congress would have enacted only a single narcotics conspiracy statute if petitioner Garner's assertions regarding legislative intent (Pet. 15) were correct.

sub nom. Croucher v. *United States*, 429 U.S. 1034; *United States* v. *Marotta*, 518 F. 2d 681, 684-685 (C.A. 9). See also *United States* v. *James*, 494 F. 2d 1007, 1025-1026 (C.A. D.C.), certiorari denied *sub nom. Jackson* v. *United States*, 419 U.S. 1020.

We recognize that two circuits, relying on *Braverman*, have held that an individual who enters into a single agreement to import and to distribute a controlled substance may not be separately convicted and punished under Sections 846 and 963. *United States* v. *Rivera Diaz*, 538 F. 2d 461 (C.A. 1); *United States* v. *Honneus*, 508 F. 2d 566 (C.A. 1), certiorari denied, 421 U.S. 948; *United States* v. *Adcock*, 487 F. 2d 637 (C.A. 6). For the reasons discussed above, we believe that these cases are based upon a misinterpretation of *Braverman* and of the congressional intent in enacting Sections 846 and 963. They are, in any event, distinguishable from the present case because they each involved an indivisible, continuous conspiracy stemming from a single agreement. The First and Sixth Circuits both recognized that Congress has the power to condemn different aspects of related conduct if, as here, there are meaningful distinctions between the elements constituting each offense. *United States* v. *Honneus*, *supra*, 508 F. 2d at 569; *United States* v. *Adcock*, *supra*, 487 F. 2d at 639-640.

CONCLUSION

The petitions for a writ of certiorari should be denied.

Respectfully submitted.

WADE H. MCCREE, JR.,
Solicitor General.

JOHN C. KEENEY,
Acting Assistant Attorney General.

JEROME M. FEIT,
WILLIAM C. BROWN,
Attorneys.

JUNE 1978.

☆ U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE: 1978 268358 50